

IMMEDIATE

United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

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(U)

April 21, 1986

MEMORANDUM

TO: H - Mr. Dyer
ARA - Mr. Abrams ✓

FROM: H - Milton Charlton *MC*

SUBJECT: Senator Kerry Requests Hearing on Contra Crimes

CIA HAS NO OBJECTION TO
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DATE: APR 2002
BY: 0664393

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Press reports last week said that Senator Kerry has assigned several staff members to conduct an intensive investigation of allegations of contra involvement in illegal activities.

Late last week Senator Kerry met with Senator Lugar to press for a hearing on the evidence of contra misdeeds found during that investigation. The attached memo to Kerry summarizes the allegations. Kerry's staff claims that they have numerous witnesses lined up, both American and foreign, though they refuse to identify them to Lugar's staff. They have spoken of seeking subpoena powers and witness protection assistance.

The staff investigation, under way for the last two months and based on allegations dating as far back as January 1985, has apparently been directed by Jonathan Winer, a Massachusetts lawyer. When queried by Lugar's staff, Winer would not give a straight answer as to whether there was evidence suggesting Administration complicity in the alleged misdeeds, though he hinted that there may have been Administration pressures not to investigate in some cases. Nor was he willing to share any of the evidence he has collected.

Lugar's staff has promised to investigate the allegations on their own, in order to determine whether they have any merit and whether a hearing is warranted, within the next two weeks. Initial plans are to inquire with the FBI and the CIA. The staff is anxious not to provide Kerry with a vehicle for publicizing his viewpoint, and also wants to avoid interfering in ongoing investigations, but believes that the issue cannot simply be ducked.

Attachment: as stated.

Clear: H: J. Forbes
cc: L: POISON
H: LRHoppe

Executive Registry 5017

DECL: OADR